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## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Migrations of the Pinyon Jay in Colorado.**—The Pinyon Jay (*Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*) is an erratic bird in Boulder County and other portions of Colorado beyond the range of the pinyon pines, "continually changing location according to food supply" (Cooke). Betts says they have been seen in Boulder County every month of the year except December. For several years, in May, especially late in the month, they have been seen flying over Boulder daily in large flocks, almost always moving a little west of north. This has been so regular as to indicate a normal spring migration, such as occurs in Wyoming, according to Knight. I have also seen them in October and November at Boulder, flying in various directions, but mostly south. The puzzling autumnal movement of these jays at Boulder in 1919 has attracted the attention of many persons who ordinarily do not notice the birds very closely. Beginning about August 25 they were seen daily flying over in scattered groups and small flocks, passing so continuously sometimes in the mornings that for an hour or two their harsh calls could be heard almost without cessation, and less continuously later in the day. Up to October 8 many thousands passed, almost without exception flying about ten degrees north of east, from the mountains out over the plains, at right angle with the spring flight. I saw them but once flying in any other direction, and that was the last flock seen, about fifty birds, on October 8, flying in exactly the opposite direction. All observers here report about the same experience. Mr. Geo. E. Osterhout, of Windsor, northeast of Boulder, wrote on October 6 that he had seen no Pinyon Jays there this season. Professor L. A. Adams, of Teachers College, Greeley, wrote on September 23 that he had seen none until September 16, two days after my letter reached him, when they first appeared and had been flying over almost every day since in large flocks, travelling east. In another sentence he says "always going or coming from the west to east or vice versa." Mr. W. L. Burnett, of the State Agricultural College, Fort Collins, wrote on September 20 that he had not seen or heard any of the jays there this season. I should like to know whether other observers have noted their movements east of the Rockies in Colorado, Wyoming or adjacent states.—JUNIUS HENDERSON, *Boulder, Colorado, November 10, 1919.*

**The Clarke Nutcracker at Point Pinos, Monterey County, California.**—On November 2 and 3, 1919, a single Clarke Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) visited my doorway, at the western edge of the town of Pacific Grove. On both occasions there was a low fog. The bird was rather tame and was apparently attracted by my small grove of pines. It took advantage of the fine spray of a garden sprinkler for a sketchy bath, and made an unsuccessful attempt to open a Monterey pine cone. During the second visit it foraged, somewhat after the manner of a flicker, among the fallen pine needles, and before leaving perched for about three minutes on an electric service wire, uttering the characteristic "boreal" calls. It was not alarmed by several noisy autos which passed almost beneath. Since that time and up to date (December 28) I have seen or heard the birds several times each week and they have been reported elsewhere on the peninsula. They seem to take kindly to the cones of the Monterey pine.—W. K. FISHER, *Hopkins Marine Station, Pacific Grove, California, December 28, 1919.*

**Segregation of Male Mallards.**—In reading Mr. Aldo Leopold's interesting article on "Differential Sex Migrations of Mallards in New Mexico", in the September-October CONNOR, I recall that in Wisconsin twenty years ago we not infrequently found winter flocks composed of green-heads alone. I have no records of migrating flocks of any size that were made up entirely of birds of one sex, nor of large winter flocks of females alone, but I have definitely noted a number of times large winter flocks composed entirely of males. Many Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) of both sexes remained throughout the winter in the southeastern part of the state, feeding principally in cornfields on the larger prairies. During the bitter winter weather, when the lakes, ponds, and creeks were all tightly covered with ice, the only water available for the birds was in certain small spring-holes that were never frozen. The Mourning Dove, Wilson Snipe, Ameri-

can Merganser, and still more uncommon winter residents sometimes came to these springs, and because of the interesting possibilities, I visited them regularly. The Canada Geese wintered in good numbers on the prairies in company with the Mallards, but never came to the spring-holes, and it was generally believed that during the zero weather they obtained water only by eating the snow. At different times I have crawled close to small spring-holes near the tightly frozen creeks and found the open water actually covered with Mallard drakes in perfect plumage, the brilliant green heads in mass beautiful against the background of snow. I have noted fifty or more males thus packed in a single small spring, with not one female in the immediate vicinity.—N. HOLLISTER, *National Zoological Park, Washington, D. C., November 5, 1919.*

**Empidonax griseus in Oregon.**—The first known occurrence of *Empidonax griseus* in Oregon was recorded by Mr. Stanley G. Jewett (CONDOR, xv, 1913, p. 229), and was based on a specimen taken on June 25, 1908, at Wright's Point, 15 miles south of Burns. Since then several other records have appeared in print, but our knowledge of the distribution of this species in the State is still so meager that additional data are worth publication. Three unrecorded specimens are at present in the collection of the Biological Survey, as follows: No. 140165, U. S. Nat. Mus., adult male, Burns, Oregon, July 6, 1896, collected by Vernon Bailey; no. 141959, U. S. Nat. Mus., adult female, Narrows, Oregon, July 25, 1896, collected by E. A. Preble; and no. 140164, U. S. Nat. Mus., adult male, Elgin, Oregon, May 27, 1896, collected by Vernon Bailey. It will be noticed that all three of these specimens were obtained twelve years before the one that was first reported from the State by Mr. Jewett, although they have remained unmentioned until now.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C., October 1, 1919.*

**The Anna Hummingbird as a Fly-catcher.**—Mr. Tracy I. Storer (CONDOR, xxi, no. 3, p. 125) and Mr. Joseph Mailliard (CONDOR, xxi, no. 5, p. 212) have given a list of birds other than Tyrannidae which follow the flycatcher habit of catching insects on the wing. I have one more to add to this list. A letter written by me in January, 1919, to a friend reads: "I witnessed another deviation from the general habits of this bird [refers to the Anna Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)] last summer. August 23 [1918] near five o'clock in the evening my attention was attracted by one perched on a wire in the back yard. I saw the bird dart into the air a short distance and return to the wire. Another moment and the act was repeated and this time just preceding the flight I noticed a movement of the head as if the bird were watching something passing over. I then suspected that the bird was catching insects and soon after I saw it snap a small white moth from the air. It continued feeding in this manner each evening for about an hour, until I left the city on October 20; and when I returned November 6, I found it had disappeared."

Last summer (1919) after an absence of about six weeks, I returned home September 4 to find the same wire occupied in the evenings by one, two, and at times three of this species, all darting into the air for insects. They continued feeding in this manner until about November 1, and at the present writing (November 20) they are still flying about this locality, but are visiting blossoms for food. Also last September (1919) I witnessed precisely the same performance described by Mr. Mailliard at the Bohemian Grove. I was resting in Union Square, San Francisco, when an Anna Hummingbird swooped over the palm tops, poised in the air about ten feet from the ground for a few seconds, and darted into a swarm of gnats, snapped up several of them and shot like a rocket over the St. Francis Hotel.—FRANK N. BASSETT, *Alameda, California, November 22, 1919.*

**Colorado Notes.**—My own opinion as regarding the winter members of a species coincides with that of Professor Henderson, namely, that they are merely the northern representatives moved in temporarily. As evidence of this, the Red-wings (some scattered birds) even as far out as Hudson, on the prairie, leave some time the last of February and the first of March. After this time there is a marked scarcity of Red-wings until the regular influxes of spring begin. Especially was this pronounced in the springs of 1916-17-18. During the same seasons this was also true of the Cowbird and

Brewer Blackbird, a goodly number of which species always winter around the ranches on the prairies. My series of winter Red-wing skins does not as yet show marked differences in measurements worthy of tabulation. However, a series of winter Robins is proving to have some interesting differences as compared with the summer residents.

In view of Professor Henderson's notes on the activities of Pinyon Jays (*Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*), I will say that on October 15, 1919, I saw a flock of about twenty-five passing over the Denver business district, in spite of the smoke and the city sounds, headed in a northeasterly direction. Then again at Elbert, Colorado, some fifty miles distant from Denver, and about the same distance from Pike's Peak, I observed several small flocks of from half a dozen to a dozen, flying high in a northeasterly direction; time about noon. On the same day there were scattered flocks feeding on grain stacks in the valley around Elbert. They all seemed to remove to the pine ridges in a southwesterly direction at night, which led me to think these latter were not engaged in the same movements as those seen earlier in the day. Occasionally they are seen in the summer around Elbert, but I am positive that they do not nest there.

I might say further that Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) appear to be on the increase in the region of Elbert, and that this is not due to an increase in rabbits, which latter are not so numerous on account of the growing number of coyotes (bounties having stopped because of the war). Trapping is growing in popularity again, and an astonishing number of eagles are being killed because of their absolute fearlessness of trap bait. Then, too, some of the country folk are killing them because of a popular belief in their destructiveness. Of five stomachs examined in 1917, one was empty, two contained evidences of cotton-tail, and two contained evidences of both cotton-tail and prairie-dog. Bald eagles are exceedingly scarce in Colorado.

During the summer of 1918, at least a dozen pairs of Mockingbirds nested along three or four miles of a small stream near Elbert, and this year I heard not a single bird in my travels about the county.—RALPH HUBBARD, *Elbert, Colorado, November 10, 1919.*

**Birds Returning to Their Old Haunts.**—At a late summer meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Club, in 1919, a discussion arose concerning the possibility of pairs of birds migrating separately and returning to the same spot to mate again the next season. In a matter of this sort there is vast room for discussion, of which I do not intend to take advantage here, but will advance the proposition that if one of a pair of birds returns to the same spot in succeeding seasons there seems no reason to suppose that the other may not do so also, provided, of course; that it has not been prevented by some fortuitous circumstance.

Two cases of the return of certain birds not only to general localities but actually to small, defined areas, have come to my notice during the past year (1919), and if one bird thus returns why may not its mate? Which opens up the possibility, if not the probability, of the two mating again.

The first of these cases occurred at the Bohemian Grove, near Monte Rio, Sonoma County, California, where it is an annual habit with me to pass at least a couple of weeks in camp during the midsummer. While there in the summer of 1918 my curiosity was greatly aroused by a remarkable bird call often to be heard in the brush just outside the main entrance to the grove proper, on land from which the large timber had long since been cut off. Several attempts to locate the bird had failed, and the prospect of identifying it in that hillside of thick bushes and small trees was anything but encouraging. However, continued study of the situation led me to discover that the sound came a little more frequently from one particular clump of redwood saplings not very far up on the hillside than from any other one spot. Hence one morning I scrambled on hands and knees under the bushes to this clump and lay there motionless for a long time.

Few birds came within the range of vision, but after a long wait a Russet-backed Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata ustulata*) appeared on a twig right over my head, not over three or four yards away, and, to my amazement, uttered the call which had been so impossible to identify, and which was no more like the notes of a thrush than the mew of a cat is like the bark of a dog. This bird remained overhead for some minutes, frequently repeating its queer cry; but in several instances one or two of the first

notes of the natural song of this species were given before its voice broke into the unnatural one, but these preliminary notes were very faint and would not have been detected at any distance away. Certainly one would have guessed almost any other bird in the A. O. U. Check-list as the producer of these curious sounds rather than a Russet-backed Thrush. In fact, up to the moment of the solution of this problem, I had about made up my mind that the bird must be an extralimital escape from some cage.

Soon after reaching the camp the next summer, that is, in June, 1919, I was greeted by this now familiar sound in the same place as it had been heard the year before, although the bird seemed to stay about a hundred yards higher up on the hillside, for the most part, than in the previous year. Having Dr. Barton W. Evermann, Director of the Museum, California Academy of Sciences, as my guest for a few days during this stay at the Grove, I took particular pains to lead him to the bird's favorite singing ground so that he, too, might hear this peculiar song and be witness thereto. While we did not catch sight of this bird in the act of singing, if such a combination of sound could be called by that name, he can bear witness to the fact that the song was most certainly unique.

This bird assuredly returned to the same spot two years in succession, so why may not its mate have done so as well?

In the second case of a bird's return, it was seen again not only in the same locality but in the same bush. This bird was a Nuttall Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys nuttalli*), in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California, which had been particularly noticeable in the early part of 1919 from the fact that the auricular and malar regions were very decidedly paler than is usual with this species. As is the case with most of the birds in the Park, it was fairly tame, and in March and early April we would frequently see it in some bushes near the main entrance to the California Academy of Sciences on our way to and fro. After that it was lost sight of until one morning in September, when it showed up again, but this time with the lighter colored spots almost pure white. While it is true that this species breeds in the Park, and that this individual may not have gone far away during its temporary absence from our pathway, the chances are equally good that it was one of those that winter in this latitude and breed farther north, as so many of this species do. This case is the reverse of the first one, in that the bird returned in the *fall* to its favorite spot, instead of in the breeding season, but if it returns to one spot at one season, why not to another spot at the other season of the year?—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, November 1, 1919.*

**Clarke Nutcracker at Sea.**—On the boat coming up from Lower California, in September, what I took to be a Clarke Crow (*Nucifraga columbiana*) came on board somewhere between Los Angeles and San Francisco and remained until we came into port. I noticed the bird in the morning after leaving Los Angeles, but some of the other passengers said it came on board the evening before, when we were only a short distance out from that place. This is so far out of the normal range of this bird that I was much interested in speculating as to whence he came and whither he would eventually go. Will he find his way back again to the mountains?—G. F. FERRIS, *Stanford University, California, November 9, 1919.*

**Nesting of Western Robin and Spotted Sandpiper.**—Records of the finding of actual nests of the Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) in southern California are still unusual enough to be worthy of record. On August 1, 1919, near Kern Lake, Tulare County, and at an approximate altitude of 6800 feet, I found two nests containing four eggs each, situated under pieces of driftwood on sandbars in the river. These eggs hatched next day. There were probably several broods raised in the vicinity as fully grown young were common, a fact indicating that the nests found by me were second sets.

I am not aware that the Western Robin (*Planesticus migratorius propinquus*) has ever been reported as breeding in the Lower Sonoran Zone. In June, at Visalia, Tulare County, I discovered two nests of this bird in oak trees, both containing young. Many adults were noted about the town during the summer months.—A. VAN ROSSEM, *Los Angeles, California, October 22, 1919.*

**Clarke Nutcracker on the Colorado Desert.**—On October 17 and 18, 1919, I was hunting at Marchal's Ranch, which is ten miles west of Indio and about fifteen miles east of Palm Springs, Riverside County, California. It seemed strange to find Clarke Crows (*Nucifraga columbiana*) there. The birds were very tame and walked about almost in the camp. They seemed to be feeding on dates. I saw the crows flapping about the fruit clusters, and saw them flying overhead with what I took to be dates in their bills. There were probably a dozen birds about the ranch. A former student of mine, who is now teaching in the Coachella Union High School, told me of seeing the birds around the school buildings. The High School is probably twelve miles east of Marchal's. Indio is 22 feet below sea level, according to the figures on the sign at the Southern Pacific depot there.—C. O. ESTERLY, *Occidental College, Los Angeles, California, October 28, 1919.*

**Saw-whet Owl from the San Bernardino Mountains, California.**—On May 10, 1919, I was fortunate enough to collect a juvenile female Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica acadica*) at an altitude of 6950 feet, Big Bear Valley, San Bernardino Mountains, California. This is the first recorded instance for this locality, I believe. To quote Mr. Swarth, to whom I sent the specimen for verification of identification: "The little owl you sent is the Acadian Owl, *Cryptoglaux a. acadica*. It is in the juvenile plumage and I should infer was hatched somewhere in the neighborhood of where it was killed. The species has not been recorded as breeding south of the central Sierra Nevada, so far as I know and your bird is well worth recording; it is an interesting take." This bird is now no. 1830, collection W. M. P.—WRIGHT M. PIERCE, *Claremont, California, October 18, 1919.*

**Bubo virginianus lagophonus in North Dakota.**—That the Northwestern Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus lagophonus*) is more or less inclined to wander during the autumn and winter is evidenced by the capture of specimens of this race in Colorado and Nebraska. Both of these states are well without the breeding range of this subspecies, as is also North Dakota. There is, so far as we are aware, no published record for the last-mentioned state, and we are, therefore, through the courtesy of Mr. J. D. Allen of Mandan, North Dakota, pleased to be able to add it to the list of North Dakota birds. A specimen of *Bubo virginianus lagophonus* was captured at Fort Clark, near Stanton, North Dakota, on March 14, 1918, by Mr. J. Danielson, and sent Mr. J. D. Allen to be mounted. It is an adult in perfect plumage and is practically typical of this subspecies.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C., October 1, 1919.*

**Effects of a Storm on the Bird-life of the Sea.**—Off the Golden Gate a southerly gale commenced on the night of December 3, 1919, raging through the early morning hours and throughout the day of December 4, subsiding somewhat in fury toward sunset, but increasing again during the following night. It broke finally on the morning of December 5, and about 9 A. M. of that day my assistant curator, Mr. Luther Little, was despatched, in spite of squalls and occasional drenchings, upon a tour of investigation along the ocean beach from the sea end of Golden Gate Park (San Francisco, California) southward, to learn what he could of the effects of the storm upon the seabirds of this locality. The velocity of the wind had been variously reported from ships as high as 84 miles per hour, but the most reliable report was probably from the Pt. Reyes light station, which gave it as 75 miles, and the surf had been running very high.

Little returned toward noon laden with a heavy burden of bedraggled and water-soaked bodies of seabirds. His load consisted of the following: 1 Horned Grebe (*Colymbus auritus*), 1 Rhinoceros Auklet (*Cerorhinca monocerata*), 2 California Murres (*Uria troille californica*), 2 California Gulls (*Larus californicus*), 1 Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*), 1 Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*), 1 Short-billed Gull (*Larus brachyrhynchus*), and 3 Pacific Fulmars (*Fulmarus glacialis glupischa*). All were more or less battered by wind and waves; seven were in a sufficiently good state of preservation to make fair specimens. The stomachs of all were empty, and the birds were in a more or less emaciated condition.

The next morning (December 5), fortunately clear and calm, Little and I sallied forth to again search the beach, which we did for about two miles, covering a little more ground than he had gone over the previous day, with the idea in view of identifying all the birds we could find that had been washed ashore after the storm. Little said that the surface of the beach had been considerably changed since he had been there, and that some of the bodies he had noted had disappeared, while others had either been uncovered again by the waves at high tide or had been blown ashore since his visit.

Some of the birds were lying out in plain sight on the beach, while in other cases perhaps only a feather or two showed above the sand. Many gave evidence of having been sadly buffeted by wind and waves and none were in a condition to allow of preservation except three Sanderlings, which seemed quite fresh and probably were killed only the night before. Only the birds that were fresh enough to be without doubt the victims of this storm were given consideration, but there were a few older carcasses here and there, of other species than those enumerated herein.

The numbers and species of these recent victims were as follows: 1 Tufted Puffin (*Lunda cirrhata*), 4 California Murres (*Uria troille californica*), 1 Pacific Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla pollicaris*), 1 (immature) Glaucous-winged Gull (*Larus glaucescens*), 1 Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*), 1 Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus*), 1 Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*), 1 Short-billed Gull (*Larus brachyrhynchus*), one gull so soaked with oil as to be unidentifiable, 1 Pacific Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis glupischa*), 1 Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*), 1 California Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus californicus*), 1 Brandt Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*), 1 White-winged Scoter (*Oidemia deglandi*), and 3 Sanderlings (*Calidris leucophaea*). About two miles of shore were covered on these two mornings, the total number of birds found dead being 32. Doubtless there were some others buried in the sand, and as it is hardly reasonable to suppose that all those killed off-shore in these two miles of latitude had been washed up on the beach, the actual toll of this storm must have been greater therein than the count of the victims on the beach would show.

The species above enumerated were almost all, if not entirely, of those that inhabit the waters adjacent to the coast or near-by islands, and on this coast their winter habitat is a narrow belt of comparatively few miles in width for a long distance north and south of San Francisco Bay. If the storm raged as furiously over a large part of this habitat, the mortality must have been great, judging by the results of our two miles search.

It was most discouraging to find the beach strewn with cakes of solidified crude oil, the sizes of these cakes varying from only a few drops stuck together to as large as a big frying pan, showing that ships are still dumping the oil refuse from their tanks in our waters. Some of the birds found were either partly or entirely incapacitated by coming in contact with it, a couple being absolutely saturated with the oil.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, December 9, 1919.*

**Clarke Nutcracker at Carmel.**—I am indebted to Mrs. Edward A. Kluegel for the following notes on the Clarke Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) as occurring in Carmel, Monterey County, California. The first one observed was on November 7, 1919, in a tall pine. On November 9 one was watched hopping about on the ground, appearing quite tame and unafraid. Since then, varying numbers have been observed, until on November 30, twenty-seven were counted in one company.—JANE L. SCHLESINGER, *Oakland, California, December 6, 1919.*

**Habits of *Oceanodroma leucorhoa beali* versus *O. socorroensis*.**—Following directions kindly furnished me by Mr. C. I. Clay, I visited on July 16, 1919, an island of about six acres extent which lies one mile southwest of Crescent City, Del Norte County, California, and spent the day investigating its bird life. I estimated that there were close to ten thousand pairs of petrels nesting there, and one may well imagine that the day proved to be one of the most enjoyable of my life. Every foot of soft ground was not only occupied, but the tunnels were two and three layers deep, and freely intercommunicated. Indeed, it was impossible to dig more than an inch or two

without encountering a burrow, and there were often five or six nests to the square foot.

The vast majority were *Oceanodroma leucorhoa beali*, and the rule at this date was eggs on the point of hatching, although there were many young in all stages up to two-thirds grown. I noted one nest with the bird incubating two piped eggs, and there was no other nest nearby from which an egg might have rolled. One *Oceanodroma furcata* was discovered on a fresh egg, and three young of this species, ranging from half to fully grown, were found. The adult was in a separate pocket of the same burrow with a brooding *beali*. The latter form prefers the softest ground, while the former seemed to select the edges of banks where small stones are mixed with the dirt, or the interstices in a pile of loose stones. As I am rather familiar with *Oceanodroma socorroensis* during the nesting season, it may be of interest to compare some of its habits with those of *beali*.

The Socorro Petrel begins laying on the Coronados Islands during the middle of June or a trifle later, while *beali* must start not later than the first week of that month, and probably before. The climate of Crescent City, even in mid-summer, is very cold and foggy, while that of the Coronados is warm and bright. Hence, I would expect at least three weeks difference in nesting dates, but in the opposite order, and for lack of a more plausible explanation, we may attribute the actual state of affairs to food conditions.

Each species occupies only burrows which the birds themselves construct. Those of the Socorros are about two feet long, while the average length of the Beals is seventeen inches—a difference which may be blamed upon the crowded quarters of the latter. This form employs about twice the amount of weed stems for nest building as does *socorroensis*, and this is possibly due to the difference in climate. *Beali* is much more prone to eject oil than is the southern species, but none of the *furcata* which I secured showed any tendency to indulge in such tactics. In flight, the wing beats of *beali* are quicker; and I think that one who is familiar with both forms would have no trouble in distinguishing them apart while on the wing, if they be seen together. The main item of food of the Socorros is supposed to be larval rock lobsters, and this probably accounts for the fact that the deposit of fat on them is a pronounced red, almost the color of a brick, while *beali* feeds on other fare, and its fat is of the usual shade.

In both colonies, almost every foot of suitable ground is occupied, but on the small island of the Coronados group where the Socorros are found, this is of very limited extent, and the colony is crowded with but a few hundred pairs, while the northern island is almost ideal. There are no other birds, except a few guillemots, nesting upon this island to entice eggers; it is not far enough from the mainland to attract parties of all-day picknickers; and, for the same reason, cats are not likely to be introduced by campers. In fact, the only damaging influence seems to be a Barn Owl, which probably flies over from the mainland and raids the petrels every night, to which hundreds of wings scattered beneath the rocky points bear mute witness.—A. B. HOWELL, Pasadena, California, November 10, 1919.

**Further Colorado Notes.**—In the last number of *Bird-Lore*, Dr. Bergtold mentions the recent extension of the summer range of the Lewis Woodpecker (*Asyndesmus lewisi*) eastward onto the plains in Colorado. It has formerly been considered a mountain bird in the summer time in this state, but we now hear of it frequently in the breeding season far from the foothills. On June 23, 1917, I saw a pair with a nest in a telephone pole at Boone, far out on the plains, a long distance east of Pueblo. The same author also mentions the decrease in the number of English Sparrows in Denver. Their scarcity in portions of Boulder this year has been noted by people who do not ordinarily notice the birds very much. Whether it is only a temporary condition due to the exceptionally dry, hot summer, or to some other cause, I cannot hazard an opinion. Possibly the decrease has been going on for several years but has just attracted attention. We do not regret it.

Dr. Bergtold also mentions the disappearance of Bullock Orioles from Denver early in August and their reappearance later in the month for a few days before their final disappearance for the winter. He suggests that perhaps the summer birds leave early



for the south, and that those appearing later in the month are from the north on their way south. A similar movement of Robins occurs at Boulder each year. They almost disappear early in August, reappearing in large numbers about the middle of September, remaining for several weeks, then mostly leaving for the south. Occasional individuals may be seen about town all winter, and numbers remain in the mountains, feeding on cedar berries in sunny pockets on south slopes and waxing fat. I have always believed the winter birds may be from the north, but have supposed the disappearance in August was due to a retreat into the mountains for privacy during the molt. Each year the Robins are very abundant in late August and early September at altitudes of from 9,000 to 11,000 feet, when scarce at Boulder.—JUNIUS HENDERSON, *Boulder, Colorado, November 10, 1919.*

**Lincoln Sparrow in San Francisco.**—Another species to be added to the list of birds of San Francisco, California, is the Lincoln Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni lincolni*), the record for which came about as follows: On September 13, 1919, while walking south along Broadway from Fillmore street, shortly after the noon whistles had blown, I came across a bird of this species lying on the sidewalk. It had evidently flown against one of the wires overhead with sufficient force as to cause instant death, the contusion being plainly visible upon the side of the head and neck. This accident must have happened in the night, for the condition of the bird's body was such as to show that it had been dead for some hours. In fact a few of the feathers of the abdomen "slipped", in making up the skin, where the sun's rays had hastened decomposition. It proved to be a male bird of the year.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, November 1, 1919.*

**Some Bird Records from Nebraska.**—The following records of Nebraska birds perhaps deserve publication. They consist of species observed near or beyond the limits of their hitherto known summer ranges, or of occurrences otherwise interesting from a distributional standpoint. They were all obtained in Cherry County, in the central northern part of the State, during the writer's investigation of the wild fowl of that region.

*Chaetura pelagica.* Chimney Swift. A single individual was seen at a ranch a few miles west of Cody on June 1, 1915.

*Sayornis sayus.* Say Phoebe. Two were observed in the streets of Valentine on June 2 and 3, 1915.

*Hylocichla mustelina.* Wood Thrush. One was heard singing in the timber along the Niobrara River eight or nine miles south of Valentine on June 3, 1915.

*Vireo bellii bellii.* Bell Vireo. This species was found on the Niobrara River a few miles south of Valentine on June 3, 1915; twice on the upper part of Gordon Creek, a few miles north of Simeon, on the same date; and on the island in Dewey Lake in eastern Cherry County on June 4, 1915.

*Hedymeles melanocephalus papago.* Black-headed Grosbeak. A full plumaged adult male was seen at the Tate Ranch near Tate Lake in southeastern Cherry County on June 18, 1915.

*Guiraca caerulea lazula.* Western Blue Grosbeak. A single adult male of this species was observed along the North Loup River, five miles east of the Palmer Ranch, on June 17, 1915.

*Spizella pusilla arenacea.* Western Field Sparrow. A single individual was observed on June 16, 1915, at the Palmer Ranch in western Cherry County, which is about eight miles east of Pullman, and near the source of the North Loup River.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C., October 1, 1919.*

**Old Squaw Ducks at San Diego.**—On January 4, 1920, Mr. Ad. Pearson saw three unrecognized ducks in a tide slough (mouth of San Diego River) at Mission Bay. He shot one and brought it to me for identification. It proved to be an adult female Old Squaw (*Harelda hyemalis*).—FRANK STEPHENS, *San Diego, California, January 6, 1920.*